

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the abstract with the following abstract:

Abstract

A content addressable memory (CAM) including a plurality of rows, each of the rows has a plurality of matchline segments having a plurality of CAM cells coupled thereto. A circuit is provided for precharging the matchline segments to a mismatch condition. For each segment a sense circuit detects a match and in response thereto enables a discharge path in a subsequent segment, to allow matches to be detected therein. This is propagated through all segments in a row to generate a search result for the row.